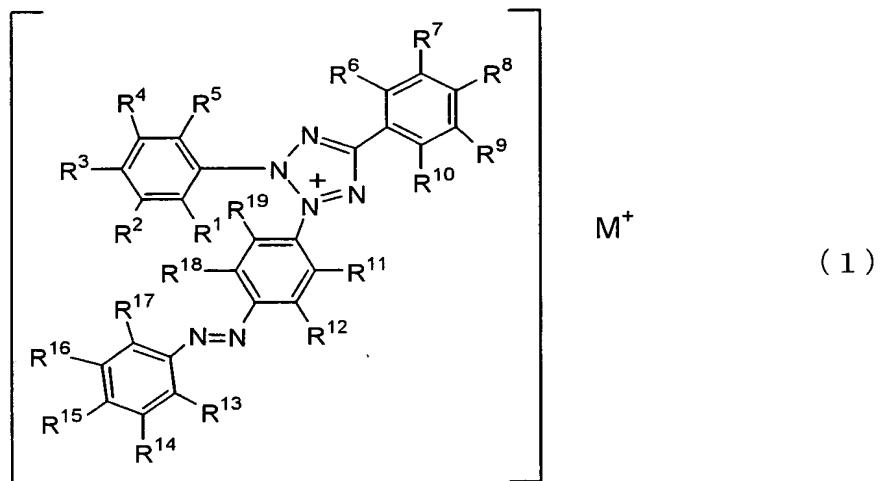


## ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present invention is to provide a water-soluble tetrazolium compound that will form a water-soluble formazan exhibiting 5 long-wavelength absorption and is stable in aqueous solution for a long period and suitable for the quantitative analysis of dehydrogenases or substrates thereof.

Disclosed is a water soluble tetrazolium compound expressed by the following general formula (1):

10



wherein each of R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>19</sup> independently represents hydrogen atom; nitro 15 group; sulfonate group or alkyl, alkoxy, sulfoalkyl or sulfoalkyloxy groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; provided that each of at least two of R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>19</sup> independently represents sulfonate group; or sulfoalkyl or sulfoalkyloxy groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and M represents an alkali metal or ammonium ion.